

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 04229 191620Z

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ACTION AF-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7361

UNCLAS YAOUNDE 4229

FOR IBS VOA NEWS COVERAGE DESK ATTENTION AFRICAN DIVISION

PASS IPS AFRICA BRANCH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT:

FOR THE PAST FIVE DAYS YAOUNDE HAS BEEN THE CAPITAL OF HISTORY AS SOME ONE HUNDRED HISTORIANS FROM THIRTY AFRICAN COUNTRIES GATHERED FOR THE SECOND CONGRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN HISTORIANS, LED BY SEKENE MODY CISSOKO THEIR PRESIDENT, A MILIAN AND PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF DAKAR. OBSERVERS FROM THE UNITED STATES, OTHER COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ALSO ATTENDED. THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE WAS "HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT" AND EMPHASIZED THE ROLE OF HISTORY TEACHING IN EFFORTS TO AWAKEN MASS AWARENESS OF AFRICAN AUTHENTICITY. PRESIDENT SEKENE CISSOKO CITED THREE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION SINCE ITS CREATION IN 1972; 1. IT IS NOW KNOWN AND RECOGNIZED IN AFRICA AND IN THE WORLD; 1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF HISTORIANS HAVE BEEN FORMED IN ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND, 3. THE BILINGUAL AFRICAN HISTORY REVUE OF THE ASSOCIATION, "AFRICA ZAMANI," HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH FOUR ISSUES HAVING APPEARED TO DATE.

CAMEROON PRESIDENT EL HADJ AHMADOU AHIRO OFFICIALLY OPENED THE CONGRESS ON DECEMBER 17 WITH A SPEECH IN WHICH HE PRAISED THE ASSOCIATION FOR EFFORTS TO BREAK DOWN LINGUISTIC

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BARRIERS AMONG AFRICAN PEOPLES: "AFRICAN HISTORY AS ACTUAL

LIVING HISTORY IS BASICALLY A WINDOW THROUGH WHICH WE SEE THE
UNITY OF OUR PEOPLES AND A SPECIAL CATALYST FOR MAKING US AWARE
OF THAT UNITY."

AMONG THE PRESENTATIONS BY DISTINGUISHED AFRICAN HISTO-
RIANS WAS A FOUR HOUR LECTURE AND DISCUSSION BY CHEIK ANTA
DIOP WHO FINDS THE ORIGINS OF WORLD CIVILIZATION IN EGYPT
AND THE ORIGINS OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION IN AFRICA.

AMONG OTHER PAPERS PRESENTED WERE "AFRICAN HISTORY IN
SECONDARY SCHOOLS" BY LIBERIA'S DORIS BANKS HENRIES, AND
"THE NATIONALIST PHENOMENON YESTERDAY AND TODAY" BY
CAMEROON'S ADALBERT OWONA. OWONA WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT
OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE COMING YEAR.
PRILLAMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HISTORY, PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975YAOUND04229
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750441-1163
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751226/aaaaawjp.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAR 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, CM
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006